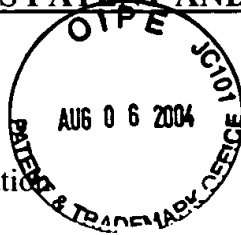


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Bruce C. Monk et al  
Serial No.: 09/994,399  
Filed: Nov. 26, 2001  
Title: Validation And Verification  
Apparatus And Method



Date: August 4, 2004  
Group Art Unit: 2625  
Examiner: Aaron W. Carter

HON. COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

This paper is in response to an Office Action dated May 5, 2004.

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**COMMENTS**

Technology Center 2600

The applicant notes that responsive to applicant's amendment received in the USPTO on January 29, 2004, all requested changes to the claims have been entered. Claims 33-37 have been added, and claims 6-10, 14-30 and 32 have been cancelled. The applicant also notes that: "Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 11-13 and 31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection."

Continuing, the Examiner states that "Claims 1 and 31 are objected to because of the following informalities" and "In claims 1 on lines 14 and 20 and in claim 31 on lines 18 and 24 the phrase "objects identified is step (b)" is grammatically in correct, the "is" should be replaced with an "in". Appropriate correction is required." The applicant has amended claims 1 and 31 to read "documents identified in step (b)" to be in the form as noted by the Examiner. The change to "documents" is described further in this response.

The Examiner then rejects claims 5 and 34 for informalities stating:

"Claim 5 *is* dependent upon claim 1, claim 1 includes steps (a) - (d), claim 5 includes steps (h) and (i), steps (e), (f), and (g) are missing. Claim 34 *is* dependent upon claim 5 and claim 34 includes the steps (g) and (h), now we have two (h) steps because both claim 5 and claim 34 have a step labeled (h). Appropriate correction is required."